

Fall 2004

Bridge to the Past: Kenneth Konop '29, '31 J.D.

University of Notre Dame Law School

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LAWYER



Fall 2004



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

The Law School



Dear Notre Dame Lawyer,

Welcome to my first issue of the Notre Dame Lawyer!

By the time you read this, I will have been Director of External Relations for six months. In this short time, I have traveled to several cities—Raleigh, Buffalo, Newark, Kansas City, Atlanta, Cincinnati, and San Diego—and have met many alumni. I look forward to meeting many, many more people who have walked through the hall beyond my office door as students.

I am quickly learning what it means to be a “Notre Dame lawyer”: a commitment to the highest of ethical standards as well as a commitment to service. And I learn this through meeting the wonderful people who are Notre Dame lawyers.

In the short time I have been on campus, the Golden Dome has glowed for me as I turn onto Notre Dame Avenue, and the light from the Grotto has reflected onto the surrounding trees as I run by it. I have met incredible people who share both a love for this physical place and a love for its spirituality. And I have learned that people everywhere know about Notre Dame.

I look forward to the coming years as I will have the opportunity to meet many more of you. I am pleased to now be able to say, “Go Irish!”

Yours in Notre Dame,

Carol Jambor-Smith

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 23-24Symposium: The SEC at 70

September 24Fall meeting of the NDLA Board of Directors

September 25CLE program: “Zoning of Cell Phone Towers”
by Associate Dean and Professor John Nagle and
“The Model Rules, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interests”
by Professor of Law Rev. John Coughlin.*

October 2CLE program: “My Client the Situation”
by Professor of Law Thomas Shaffer and
“Retribution: The Forgotten Aim of Punishment”
by Professor Gerard V. Bradley.

October 4Oral argument, Indiana Court of Appeals
2:00 p.m., courtroom

October 7-8Tax and Estate Planning Institute
Century Center, South Bend

October 9CLE program: “Confidentiality Today: A New Paradigm for a New Century”
by Professor of Law John Robinson and “What Lawyers Should Know About Reading
Financial Statements and Annual Reports” by Professor of Law Matthew Barrett.

October 13“Law and...”
Truth, Reality, and Advocacy: *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *The Passion of the Christ*
Ted Mandell, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
James Seckinger, The Law School
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., courtroom

October 22Fall meeting of Law School Advisory Council

October 23CLE program: “Ethics 2000: What Changes Has the ABA Wrought? Are the
States Signing On?” by Legal Aid Clinic Director and Professional Specialist
Robert Jones.

November 4Symposium: “The Role of Religion, Morality, and Tradition in Our
Constitutional Democracy”: Plenary lecture by Jeffery Stout, Professor of
Religion at Princeton University.

November 5Symposium: “The Role of Religion, Morality, and Tradition in Our Constitutional
Democracy”: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., courtroom.

Topics of presentations:

- Theological Issues, opening comments by Associate Professor of Theology
Gerald McKenny
- Philosophical Issues, opening comments by John A. O'Brien Chair and
Professor of Philosophy Philip Quinn
- Issues of Law and Public Policy, opening comments by Professor of Law
Vincent Rougeau

November 13CLE program: “*Blakely v. Washington*: The Demise of the Federal Sentencing
Guidelines” by Professor of Law Jimmy Gurulé and “Law & Ethics of Antenuptial
Agreements” by Professor of Law J. Eric Smithburn.

November 17“Law and...”
Fighting for “Caucasian Rights”: Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and Civil
Rights Legislation in World War II Texas
Thomas Guglielmo, Department of American Studies
Jimmy Gurulé, The Law School
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., courtroom

December 1“Law and...”
Universal Jurisdiction Over Gross Human Rights Violations:
Back to Square Zero?
Luc Reydam, Department of Political Science
Theresa Godwin Phelps, The Law School
4:00 – 6:00 p.m., courtroom

February 9“Law and...”
The Effects of Welfare and Tax Reform: The Material Well-Being of Single
Mothers in the 1980s and 1990s
James X. Sullivan, Department of Economics and Econometrics
Michael Kirsch, The Law School

Did you know:

There is a post-game reception in the student lounge of the Law School for members of the NDLA and their guests after every home football game?

You can access alumni information through “Irish Online,” the ND Alumni Association’s electronic alumni directory? Learn how to access the database at irishonline@nd.edu.

*For detailed information about CLE programs, please visit www.nd.edu/~ndlaw/alumni/cle.html.

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A large, faded, sepia-toned portrait of a man with a mustache, identified as Kenneth Konop, serves as the background for the page. He is wearing a suit and tie, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

BRIDGE TO THE PAST: KENNETH KONOP '29, '31 J.D.

Imagine having been at Notre Dame when it enrolled its first freshman class of 1,000. Imagine listening to radio broadcasts of the 1924 Democratic Convention with professors and priests in one of the cornfields that surrounded the campus. Imagine being at Notre Dame for the legendary Notre Dame-Ohio State football game of 1935, which Notre Dame won, 18-13. Imagine having Knute Rockne as your track coach. And imagine being a member of the Law School class of 1931, the first to graduate from the present Law School building.

Now imagine having the opportunity to share the memories and stories you have of all these experiences at Notre Dame with Dean Patricia O'Hara, whose office is the same office that was your father's, Thomas Konop, when he was Dean of the Law School from 1923 until 1941.

Early in his career, he worked 44-hour weeks, including Saturday mornings, for \$30 a week. When the mandatory Saturday time was dropped, his salary was cut by \$2.50 a week.

Such is the experience of Kenneth Konop '29, '31 J.D., who is possibly the Law School's oldest living alumnus. In many ways, Mr. Konop serves as a bridge between the past and the future of the law school, a bridge embodied by the present Law School building, designed and completed under the direction of Mr. Konop's father, Law School Dean Thomas Konop.

On June 8, 2004, Dean Patricia O'Hara, Director of Law School Advancement Glenn Rosswurm, and Director of External Relations Carol Jambor-Smith traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, to meet, speak, and reminisce with Mr. Konop, a visit prompted by the congratulatory letter he sent to Dean O'Hara upon her appointment as the Law School's ninth dean.

Mr. Konop is a gracious host who lives independently and who admits to enjoying a glass of wine every day. He clearly relished the opportunity to share his Notre Dame stories.

The majority of Mr. Konop's legal career was spent at AT&T, beginning with work for Indiana Bell in Indianapolis. With a twinkle in his eye, he said he worked for 38 years and has been retired for 35 years: "I guess I've benefited from their retirement plan!"

Early in his career, he worked 44-hour weeks, including Saturday mornings, for \$30 a week. When the mandatory Saturday time was dropped, his salary was cut by \$2.50 a week. His work took him from Indianapolis to Cleveland, Ohio, to Kansas City, Missouri, and involved buying land rights for the company's open wire lines. For a few years following his retirement from AT&T, Mr. Konop practiced aviation and admiralty law in Kansas City.

The stories he told were many and varied. He revealed some information about the first Dean of the Law School, Colonel Hoynes, about whom not much is known. "I remember old Hoynes," he said. Evidently, both the Colonel and Dean Konop were wine aficionados, difficult in the days of Prohibition. The two men would drive out to Cleveland Road in a buggy and buy jugs of wine from a bootlegger, the Colonel allegedly purchasing the larger, three-gallon jug. Colonel Hoynes lived on the main floor of the Main Building and ate with "high-toned priests." Mr. Konop remembers a time when the Colonel had to be pulled away from such a meal to attend a banquet that was being held in honor of the Law School.

Because Dean Konop had had an illustrious political career before his academic career, Mr. Konop had wonderful stories to tell about the political events he remembered. Dean Konop won his 1910 congressional race by 10 votes, a victory that was certified by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In part because his district included two Indian reservations, Dean Konop eventually became Chair of the Congressional Committee



Clockwise from left: Dean Thomas, William, Phillip, and Kenneth Konop.

on Indian Affairs and received occasional Washington, D.C. visits from members of the Oneida and Menominee tribes, who would sleep on the living room floor of the Konops' home.

The Congressman took his young five-year-old son to the White House to say goodbye to President Taft at the end of the President's term. Mr. Konop remembers being lifted by Taft, a "huge man," and placed in the big, black chair that sat behind the presidential desk.

While he was dean, Thomas Konop brought many changes to the Law School. During his tenure, the Law School was admitted to the American Association of Law Schools and accredited by the American Bar Association. He increased the academic requirements for admission to the Law School twice: in 1925, requiring a high school diploma plus two years of college work and in 1928, increasing the requirement to three years of college work. Under Dean Konop, the first issue of the *Lawyer* was published in 1925, the size of the faculty was increased, and the curriculum was expanded to include

elective course work.

The most visible accomplishment of Dean Konop was the construction of the present Law School building, which was completed in 1930. Mr. Konop believes the building cost \$400,000 and took one year to complete; he also remembers that an attorney from Fort Wayne, Indiana, provided the lead gift. Archbishop Patrick Joseph Cardinal Hayes of New York traveled to South Bend to participate in the building's dedication.

Mr. Konop's days at Notre Dame, in many ways, seem far removed from 2004: buggies with runners were used for

Mr. Konop's days at Notre Dame, in many ways, seem far removed from 2004: buggies with runners were used for transportation; cornfields surrounded the campus; a round-trip train ride to a football game against Minnesota cost \$14.25, including the price of a ticket.

transportation; cornfields surrounded the campus; a round-trip train ride to a football game against Minnesota cost \$14.25, including the price of a ticket; legends like Rockne and the Four Horsemen were on campus. The Law School was quieter, with "five or six" professors, one part-time student assistant who worked for the dean, and a class with 115 members (only 44 of whom graduated).

But the study and aspirations of those people echo in the same halls as the study and aspirations of today's Law School faculty, staff, and students. The vision of Dean Konop for the Law School has carried through the intervening years to merge with the visions of Dean O'Hara for a new, larger Law School building that will meet today's demands of a legal education.

We all look forward to greeting Mr. Konop on his 75th Reunion, which we are confident he will attend in 2006.



Dean Patricia O'Hara and Kenneth Konop.

